

commentletters



From: Gale Smiley <galesmiley@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 9:19 PM
To: commentletters
Subject: February 2, 2016 meeting

To Whom It May Concern:

I, as a San Juan Water District customer, would like to voice my opposition to The State Water Board's re-evaluation in February of our water conservation requirements. The current reduction requirements were enacted in a severe drought situation. The customers in our district did everything in their power to meet these requirements. All of our landscaping has suffered, lawns are all but dead, plants and trees have all suffered irrevocably, and drains are backed up due to not enough water flow through the lines. Our rates have all been increased due to the drought surcharges and lower consumption. Part of this is understandable in an emergency condition. We could all benefit from re-evaluating wasteful water usage.

There are several issues I take exception to here. First, we have experienced a great deal of beneficially rain and substantial snow pack this season. It is my feeling that this issue should be re-evaluated in April after the situation is more able to be addressed. Second, I have personal knowledge of Southern California irresponsible over use of water with no penalties. Also, I have personal knowledge through Sutter and Yuba County leaders that the rice fields in both counties continue to be flooded, not for rice, but for the birds. I have inquired into this issue after seeing the continuous extreme waste of water over hundreds of acres during the entire year. I own a houseboat on Bullard's Bar Reservoir and have seen the dire water situation there only to drive home past these acres upon acres of flooded land. I was told that this will never change and the birds lands are protected. I am a wildlife enthusiast, however, these birds will migrate.

I am adamantly opposed to any re-evaluation until at least April when the water situation can more accurately be assessed. I also am adamant that Southern California be penalized as much, if not more, than Northern California. They are not!

Sincerely,
Gale Smiley